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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Zandra V. Smith
Art Unit: 2877
Applicants : James L. Overbeck et al
Serial No. : 09/733,162
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For : OPTICAL MEASUREMENT DEVICE AND RELATED PROCESS

BOX PETITION
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-65, 67-68, 77-79, 85 and 88-132.

Please amend claims 66, 69, 74-75, 80, 84 and 86-87 as follows. A marked-up version showing the changes made to the claims by this Preliminary Amendment is attached as Appendix A.

66. (Amended) A shield for a device for measuring optical characteristics of an object in a field of view, the device having an illumination source comprising:

a body defining an aperture through which the object is measured;

a means for engaging said body against the measuring device whereby ambient light is restricted from entering said body; and

a reference area secured to the body and proximate said aperture, said reference area in the field of view and adapted to establish an illumination reference in the field of view.